

Chavez' Will Meet Sunday

The priests of the numerous and widespread Chavez family of New Mexico will celebrate the annual Solemn Mass in honor of San Fernando Rey, patron saint of the family, Sunday at St. Anthony's Church in Pecos.

Mass will be sung at 12 with a general meeting to follow in the parish hall there.

Mr. Justice David Chavez Jr. currently is president of the Chavez clan. Election of officers is to be held during the general afternoon meeting Sunday.

Clerical members of the Chavez family are: the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Albert Chavez, the Rev. Angelico Chavez, OFM; the Rev. Henry Chavez, S.J., and the Rev. Arthur Chavez. Two other members whose mothers were Chavez's are the Rev. Robert Beach, pastor of Pecos, and the Rev. Miguel Baca, OFM, mission preacher with headquarters at San Fidel.

The New Mexico Chavez folk are a distinctive group, all descended from the seven sons of Don Fernando de Chavez, prominent captain of the Indian Rebellion of 1680 and the Vargas Reconquest of 1692 and 1693. His grandfather, Don Pedro de Chavez, came to New Mexico with the Oate Colony of 1600, and was a native of Llerena in Western Spain.

Seeing that the feast of San Fernando falls on a legal holiday, the Chavez priests first celebrated it together in order to get their own respective kinfolk acquainted with one another. But so many other Chavez people wanted to come that it became like a Scottish "gathering of the clan," according to a family spokesman.

The padres saw in this a splendid opportunity to increase the number of Chavez priests and religious. This has become the prime purpose of the celebration, to encourage vocations from such a vast family. The collection taken up at the Mass of San Fernando goes to the diocesan seminary.